

PLEASE AMEND THE CLAIMS AS FOLLOWS:

Please replace the appropriate claim with the clean version provided below.

20. The method according to Claim 8 wherein the incubation in step d is about 60 hours and further comprising the steps of  
e) adding an aluminum adjuvant, and  
f) co-precipitating the rHBsAg and the adjuvant,  
wherein step f includes an incubation of about 40 hours.

**REMARKS**

Upon entry of this amendment Claims 8-20 will be pending in this application.

Amendment of the Claims

To clarify Applicant's claimed methods Claim 20 is amended to depend directly from Claim 8 and to recite the limitations of Claim 17.

No issue of New Matter is believed to be raised by the present amendments.

In view of Applicant's amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully requests that the rejections stated against claims be withdrawn.

Rejections under 35 USC § 112

Claim 20 was rejected under the second paragraph of 35 USC § 112. The Examiner stated that Claim 20 did not have a proper antecedent basis in Claim 17.

Applicant has amended Claim 20 to depend directly from Claim 8 and to recite the limitations of Claim 17. Therefore, Applicant requests withdrawal of the stated rejection.